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sent it, but not to give it away.

PARENTS' NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL UNION.

The annual meeting of the members of this Union took place yesterday at London House, by permission of the Bishop of London, the Earl of Aberdeen, who was accompanied by the Countess of Aberdeen, occupying the chair. The objects of the society are "to assist parents of all classes to understand the best principles and methods of education in all its aspects, especially in those which concern the formation of habits and character," and "to afford to parents opportunities for co-operation and consultation, so that the wisdom and experience of each may be made profitable for all." Letters of regret at being unable to attend, but sympathising with the objects of the Union, had been received from the Archbishop of Dublin, the Bishop of London, Miss Frances Buss, Archdeacon Farrar, Sir Douglas Galton, and others. The Earl of Aberdeen, in the course of a brief address, contended that the aims and work of the Union were not merely academic but really practical, although, from the nature of it, the latter was often unseen though not unfelt in its influence.—Sir James Crichton-Browne, in moving the adoption of the report, said that being a great supporter of individual responsibility and independent action, he at first looked with a little suspicion on the formation of any new society intended to undertake duties which had before been left to individual initiative; but after studying the work which the Union had accomplished he was bound to confess that, in his opinion, it had really justified its existence.—Mr. John Jackson seconded the motion, which was carried.—The Countess of Aberdeen moved a resolution pledging the meeting to support the Union, and in doing so expressed the opinion that the education of the parent was one of the most important branches of work which could be undertaken by any body of persons.—Dr. A. T. Schofield seconded the motion, which was at once agreed to.—A vote of thanks to the Bishop of London for the use of London House, moved by Canon Daniels, brought the proceedings to a close.

SINGULAR COLLIERY STRIKE.—Last night

PARENTS' EDUCATION,

If the institution of the Parents' National Education Union may on *a priori* grounds have struck outside observers as a work of supererogation, the report of the society's annual meeting yesterday is certainly calculated to reassure them as to the advisability of such a movement. Philanthropy, if we mistake not, prompted the foundation of the Union, but science has now stamped it with the seal of approval. The need for such a society was vindicated in a most interesting but rather alarming speech by Sir James Crichton Browne. In the lowest stages of animal life, the rising generation is independent from the outset. The progeny of the infusoria, as soon as it is endowed with individual life, swims cheerfully away, and is at once capable of performing every function. But as we mount in the scale, the dependence of the young on their parents becomes more and more marked, until it culminates in man, who, as the learned physiologist remarked, could not perform his parental obligations "without the aid of science, skill, knowledge, and experience such as few parents could possess for themselves." We have called Sir James Crichton Browne's speech alarming, and the use of this epithet may be justified by the vista which he opened up of the future relations of parents and children. If evolution is to proceed, it is inevitable that this period of dependence and education must constantly become more and more prolonged. The prospect is, indeed, formidable, for at this rate we shall ultimately reach a point at which parents will not live long enough to complete their own education, much less that of their children. To meet with the exigencies of such a situation it is obvious that no time should be lost in founding a supplementary society for the education of grand-parents.

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